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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
8 AT SEATTLE

9 SONIA POWELL,

10 Plaintiff,

11 v.

12 KING COUNTY, *et al.*,

13 Defendants.
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Case No. C19-929 RSM

ORDER DENYING MOTION TO
RECUSE

15 This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff Sonia Powell's Motion to Recuse. Dkt.
16 #14. Ms. Powell states that, in one of her prior cases, the undersigned judge issued an order to
17 show cause and eventually determined that venue was improper or that the Court lacked
18 jurisdiction. *Id.* at 2 (citing *Powell vs. The City of Pasco et al.*, Case No. 2:16-cv-00648-RSM).
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20 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 455(a), a judge of the United States shall disqualify himself in
21 any proceeding in which his impartiality "might reasonably be questioned." Federal judges
22 also disqualify themselves in circumstances where they have a personal bias or prejudice
23 concerning a party or personal knowledge of disputed evidentiary facts concerning the
24 proceeding. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 455(b)(1). However, "a judge's prior adverse ruling is not
25 sufficient cause for recusal." *United States v. Studley*, 783 F.2d 934, 939 (9th Cir. 1986); *see*
26 *also Taylor v. Regents of Univ. of Cal.*, 993 F.2d 710, 712 (9th Cir. 1993) ("To warrant recusal,
27 judicial bias must stem from an extrajudicial source.").
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1 As the Court reads Ms. Powell's Motion, she is relying solely on this Court's prior
2 adverse ruling in an unrelated matter as evidence of bias. This is insufficient to warrant
3 recusal. *See Studley, supra; Taylor, supra.* Ms. Powell presents no reasonable basis to
4 question impartiality. Accordingly, the undersigned judge declines to voluntarily recuse
5 himself.

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7 Having reviewed the relevant briefing and the remainder of the record, the Court hereby
8 finds and ORDERS:

- 9 1. Ms. Powell's Motion to Disqualify (Dkt. #14) is DENIED.
- 10 2. In accordance with LCR 3(e), this Order is referred to the Honorable Benjamin
11 H. Settle, the senior active judge in this District, for review of this decision. The
12 Clerk is directed to provide a copy of this Order to Judge Settle.

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14 DATED this 1st day of November 2019.

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17 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
18 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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